(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Anti smuggling agencies are acting in concert with local state authorities to thwart any attempt to smuggle goods in the Indo-Sri Lanka sector. Coastal patrolling and intelligence collection have been intensified.

Restructuring of Regional Rural Banks in Maharashtra

1636. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the regional rural banks in Maharashtra which have been restructured;

(b) whether the restructuring has affected the policy frame work and their working; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Four Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) viz. Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank, Thane Gramin Bank, Buldhana Gramin Bank and Yavatmal Gramin Bank in Maharashtra have been taken up for comprehensive restructuring. They have been provided equity support to the extent of Rs. 5.79 crores by Government of India as a part of this exercise. The changes in policy frame work in the context of restructuring, having a bearing on the working of RRBs include the following:

(i) With a view to widening the range of and scope of their services, the RRBs have been allowed, with effect from 1.1.1994, to finance non-target groups to the extent of 60% of their fresh lending. More discretionary powers have been given to them for purchase/discounting of cheques/demand drafts. Further, for widening their range of services, RRBs have been, inter-alia, allowed to issue guarantees on behalf of their customers, install lockers, issue drafts and effect mail transfers.

(ii) Seventy RRBs with disbursements of less than Rs. 2 crores during 1992-93 have been relieved from the service area obligations and have been allowed to extend loans throughout the area within their jurisdiction.

(iii) RRBs have, subject to certain conditions, been allowed to relocate their loss making branches to relatively better locations viz. commercial centres like market areas, village mandis, block and district headquarters etc. and to redeploy concerned staff suitably.

(iv) All RRBs have been advised to prepare bank specific development action plans to enable them to adopt a systematic approach for their turnaround.

(v) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided the RRBs access to profitable avenues for investment of their non-SLR surplus funds in listed and other schemes of Unit Trust of India (UTI), fixed deposits in profit making financial institutions like the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Credit Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI), in bonds of nationalised banks and profit earning public sector institutions and in non-convertible debentures of reputed blue chip companies. Besides, the RRBs have been permitted by the RBI to deploy a part of their surplus non-SLR funds in the credit portfolio of their sponsor banks through non-risk sharing participation certificates to be issued by the latter.

(vi) Prudential accounting norms of income recognition and asset classification have been applied to RRBs in 1995-96. Provisioning norms would be applied in a phased manner from 1996-97 onwards.

Petition of Union Leaders of State Bank of Indore

1637. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the union leaders of Delhi branches of the State Bank of Indore have filed a petition in the office of the Asstt. Labour Commissioner (C) New Delhi against the bank management;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the union leaders charge for conveyance, etc. from the bank management for attending the Asstt. Labour Commissioner (C)'s Court as on duty and leave the branch without handing over cash charge;

(c) if so, whether this is permissible under the rules and regulations of the bank; and

(d) if not, what action has been taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to check the malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) State Bank of Indore has reported that Branch Manager of their Janakpuri Branch had inadvertantly paid conveyance allowance to two of the Union Leaders to attend Assistant Labour Commissioner's (ALC) Court. The said amount was, however, recovered from the employees. The bank has further reported that permission was granted to them to go to ALC's Court after handing over cash charge to next cashier, and as per provisions of the rules of the bank.

Revenue earned on National Channel from Sponsored Programmes

1638. SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state what was the total revenue earned on Doordarshan National Network from the various sponsored programmes in the last financial year?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): Rs. 197.84 crores, Sir.

Development of Pilgrim Tourism in Maharashtra

1639. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop Nanded, Shirdi and Jyotiba in Maharashtra for pilgrim tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of the Central funds released so far for the purpose;

(d) whether Government of Maharashtra is extending any cooperation in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The identification and development of tourist places is an ongoing process and primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Government. However, financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for tourism development in the States on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments subject to the availability of funds and inter se priority.

Central Department of Tourism has released Rs. 26.26 lakhs for the construction of a Tourism Complex at Mahur, District Nanded, Maharashtra.

Central Financial Assistance is also extended to the Charitable Institutions/ Trusts for the development/improvement of facilities at pilgrimage centres.